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Dear Friends,

Healthcare Update

There was little movement on healthcare legislation in Washington last week. Senate Democrats continued meeting behind closed doors without Republican input in an attempt to reach a compromise between House and Senate legislation. It has been speculated that Democrats' could introduce legislation in the House including a government-run healthcare option next week with a vote before the Veterans' Day recess the second week in November. If a government-run healthcare option is included in either of the House or Senate healthcare bills, it is estimated that approximately 114 million Americans could lose their current coverage. I will continue to stand up for you in the House and remain steadfast in opposing any plan that will result in a government takeover of healthcare. The Republican alternative, H.R. 3218, which I have co-sponsored, will provide more people with the opportunity for coverage, won't deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions and will address tort reform.

Solar Technology Roadmap Act

This week the House passed the Solar Technology Roadmap Act. This legislation, of which I am the lead Republican sponsor, is a significant step toward positioning the United States as the world's largest market for solar energy production. The bill increases research and development funding allowing us to vastly expand the commercialization of our solar industry and create more jobs in America. Further, it provides the collaboration between academia, the Department of Energy and the private sector that researchers need so they can find ways to effectively harness the sun's energy.

I support a comprehensive "all of the above" energy strategy that embraces both alternative and conventional energy without imposing a national energy tax, such as Cap and Trade, which I voted against. The reality is until alternative energy can meet large-scale demands our nation will remain dependent on fossil fuels. Development of solar, wind, nuclear and clean coal technologies, in addition to increased domestic production of oil and natural gas, is the best way to wean ourselves off foreign oil and achieve energy independence.

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Congressman McCaul meets with members of the Turquoise Council. Pictured are: Kemal Oksuz (President), Cemil Teber (Vice-President), and Ali Candir (President of the Gullen Institute).

With Warmest Regards,

Michael T. McCaul

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